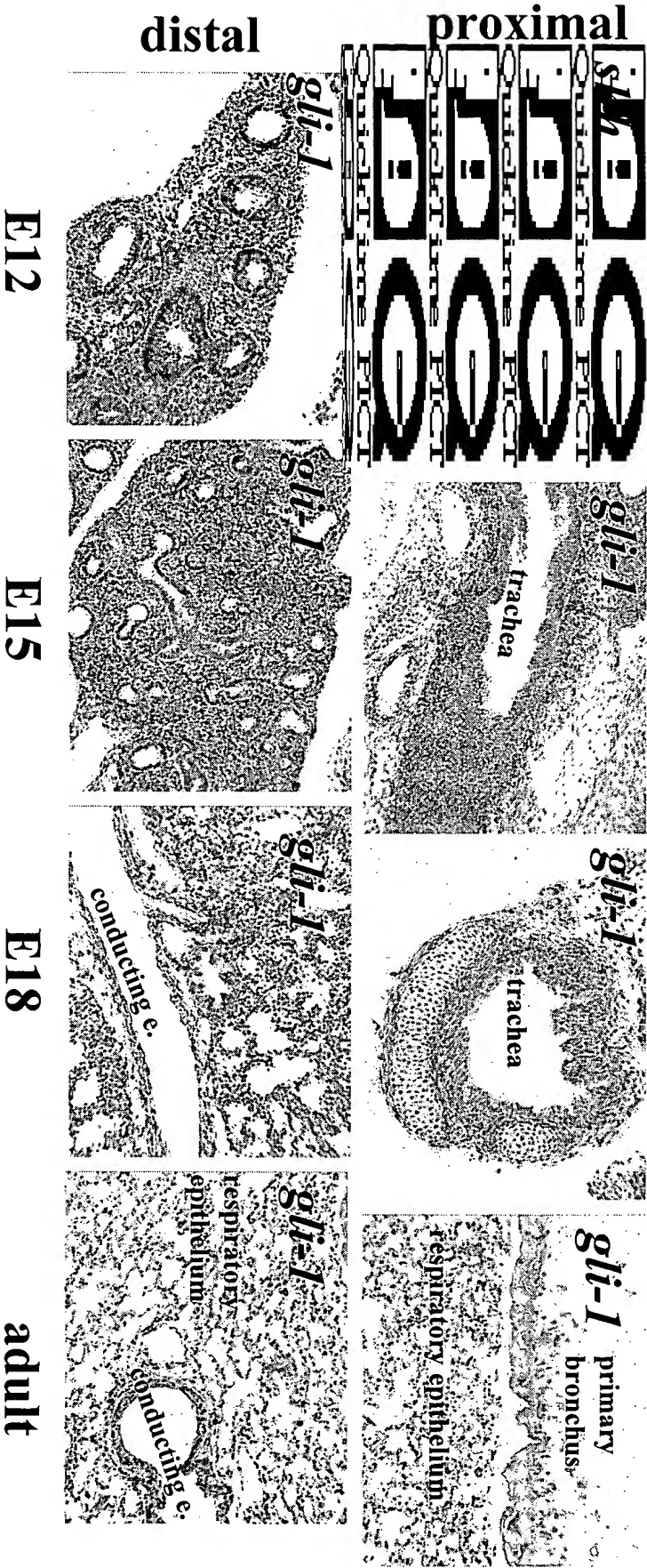


Hedgehog Pathway Gene Expression in the Lung

(by In Situ Hybridization)



Hedgehog signaling is strongly induced in lung development throughout morphogenesis of the conducting airways, but is down-regulated later in development, when the respiratory epithelium arises, as evidenced by *gli-1* expression, a transcription factor indicative of hedgehog signaling. This observation suggests that Shh is an inhibitor of lung differentiation and maturation, and that a hedgehog antagonist may be of therapeutic value for the treatment of Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS).